Amount released under IDSMT scheme to Karnataka

116. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released to Karnataka under Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns since 1996-97, till date;

(b) whether Karnataka has requested Government to convert the loan released under IDSMT as 100 per cent grant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 2155.58 lakhs has been released under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) scheme to Karnataka State since 1996-97 till date.

(b) and (c) The State Government has requested the Central Government to convert the loans released prior to 1996-97 under the IDSMT scheme into 100 per cent grant but the request could not be acceded to as it is not permissible under the IDSMT scheme guidelines. However, the entire Central assistance is being released as grant in respect of towns covered from 1996-97 onwards as per revised guidelines issued in August, 1995.

Slum Free Mega-Cities and Metro-Cities

117. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed a National Slum Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the policy;

(c) the details of the mega-cities and metro-cities expected to be made slum free and by when, State-wise;

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred in this regard, State-wise;

(e) the houses to be constructed annually and by when it is expected to be completed, State-wise; and

(f) the other steps to check the rise in slums in environmental improvement of urban slums?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry has prepared a draft "National Slum Policy" however, the same has not been finalized so far. Since, the National Slum Policy will be applicable to all the States/UTs, a copy of draft policy has been sent to all the States/UTs for their comments/ observations, which are still awaited.

(c) to (e) The Government has recently decided to launch a new scheme known as 'Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana' ((VAMBAY) with a two pronged strategy *viz.* to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for people below poverty line in urban slums for achieving the goal of Housing for all as outlined in the National Housing and Habitat Policy and to provide sanitation coverage to slums under 'Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan' a sub-component of VAMBAY in all the mega cities, metro cities and other States/ UTs capitals.

Under the 'Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana', a grant of Rs. 1000 crore has been announced to be matched equally by HUDCO as a loan component. As a sub-component of VAMBAY, it is proposed to introduce a National City Sanitation Programme or Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan under which it is proposed to cover slums in all the mega cities, metro cities and other States/UTs capitals with 100 percent sanitation coverage. The community toilet will be maintained by Community Based Organisation (CBOs) from among slum dwellers themselves and each slum family will be provided a family pass for use @Rs. 20 or so per month, which is far less than what is available from existing pay and use toilets run by other organizations.

(f) Government of India is seized of the problem of slums in different States and Cities of the country. Government is trying to ameliorate this through the National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) under which funds are released by way of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to different States by the Ministry of Finance on the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

Under NSDP, the States/UTs are required to make provision of physical amenities for slum dwellers like water supply, strom water drain, community

bath, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines, street lights, *etc. etc.*

Minimum wages under Urban Employment Generation Programme

118. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of wages to be paid under the Urban Employment Generation Programme were as per prescribed minimum wages for the unskilled labour as notified by the concerned State Governments and were to be same for men and women workers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the payment of wages to male and female were made at differential rates in the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such a discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been reported by the State of Maharashtra that in a very few Municipal Councils, the payment of wages to male and female were being made at differential rates, mainly in cases where light work was assigned to the female workers. However, concerned Municipal Authorities have already been instructed by the State Government to pay equal wages to male and female workers. In so far as Government of Tamil Nadu is concerned there is no disparity reported as such.

Ratio of operational expenses and wages under UEGP

119. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether administrative/other operational expenses and wages of unskilled workers were fixed at 5 and 40 percent respectively in the schemes under Urban Employment Generation Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that the administrative expenses were in excess of norms and percentage of expenditure on wages was very low leading to shortfall in employment generation; and